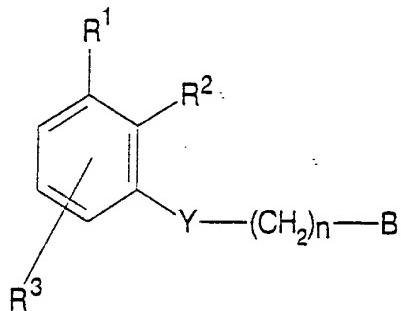


Please substitute the following amended claims for corresponding claims previously presented. A copy of the amended claims showing current revisions is attached.

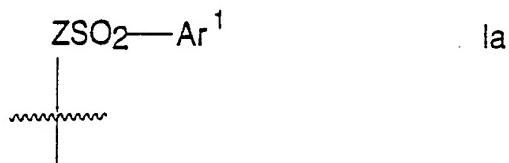
(12)

1. (Amended) A compound of formula I,



wherein

one of R¹ and R² represents a structural fragment of formula Ia



and the other represents R⁴;

Z represents O or N(R⁵);

R³ represents one or more optional substituents selected from OH, halo, cyano, nitro, C(O)OR⁶, C₁₋₆ alkoxy or C₁₋₆ alkyl (which two latter groups are

~~Q₈~~ optionally substituted and/or terminated by one or more halo or hydroxy group) or N(R⁷)R⁸;

R⁴ represents H, OH, halo, cyano, nitro, C(O)OR⁶, C₁₋₆ alkoxy or C₁₋₆ alkyl (which two latter groups are optionally substituted and/or terminated by one or more halo or hydroxy group) or N(R⁷)R⁸;

Ar¹ represents phenyl, C₁₋₃ alkylphenyl, C₁₋₃ alkylidiphenyl, C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, C₁₋₃-alkyl-C₃₋₇-cycloalkyl, C₁₋₃-alkyl-di-C₃₋₇-cycloalkyl, naphthyl, C₁₋₃ alkynaphthyl, thienyl, imidazolyl or isoxazolyl, all of which may be substituted by one or more substituent selected from OH, halo, cyano, nitro, C(O)OR⁶, C₁₋₆ alkoxy or C₁₋₆ alkyl (which two latter groups are optionally substituted and/or terminated by one or more halo or hydroxy group) or N(R⁷)R⁸;

R⁵ represents H, C₁₋₆ alkyl, phenyl or C₁₋₃ alkylphenyl (which three latter groups are optionally substituted and/or terminated by one or more substituent selected from OH, halo, cyano, nitro, C(O)OR⁹, C(O)N(R¹⁰)R¹¹, P(O)(R¹²)R¹³, P(O)(OR¹⁴)OR¹⁵, S(O)₂(R¹⁶)R¹⁷, S(O)₂N(R¹⁸)R¹⁹, C₁₋₆ alkoxy or C₁₋₆ alkyl (which two latter groups are optionally substituted and/or terminated by one or more halo or hydroxy group) or N(R²⁰)R²¹);

Y represents O, S, S(O), S(O)₂ or N(R²²);

R¹⁰ and R¹¹ independently represent H, OR²³, C(O)R²⁴, OC(O)R²⁵, C(O)OR²⁶, C₁₋₄ alkyl, (which latter group is optionally substituted and/or terminated by one or more substituent selected from C₁₋₄ alkyl, OR²⁷, N(R²⁸)R²⁹, C(O)OR³⁰, C(O)N(R³¹)R³², P(O)(R³³)R³⁴, P(O)(OR³⁵)OR³⁶ and S(O)₂N(R³⁷)R³⁸), -(CH₂CH₂O⁻)_pR³⁹ or, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached,

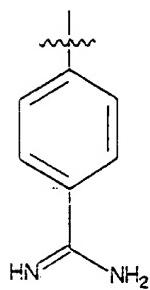
form a C₄₋₇ nitrogen-containing, aromatic or non-aromatic, ring which ring may contain a further heteroatom or group (as appropriate) selected from O, S and N(R⁴⁰) and may further be substituted by one or more substituent selected from C(O)R⁴¹, C(O)OR⁴² or C(O)N(R⁴³)R⁴⁴;

R²⁸, R²⁹, R³⁰, R³¹, R³² and R⁴⁰ independently represent H or C₁₋₆ alkyl, which latter group is optionally substituted and/or terminated by one or more substituent selected from C(O)R⁴⁵, C(O)OR⁴⁶ or C(O)N(R⁴⁷)R⁴⁸; at each occurrence, R⁶, R⁷ and R⁸ independently represent H or C₁₋₄ alkyl; R⁹, R¹², R¹³, R¹⁴, R¹⁵, R¹⁶, R¹⁷, R¹⁸, R¹⁹, R²⁰, R²¹, R²², R²³, R²⁴, R²⁵, R²⁶, R²⁷, R³³, R³⁴, R³⁵, R³⁶, R³⁷, R³⁸, R³⁹, R⁴¹, R⁴², R⁴³, R⁴⁴, R⁴⁵, R⁴⁶, R⁴⁷ and R⁴⁸ independently represent H or C₁₋₄ alkyl;

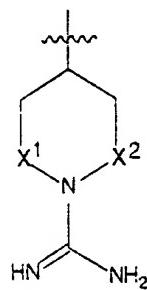
n represents 2;

p represents 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6; and

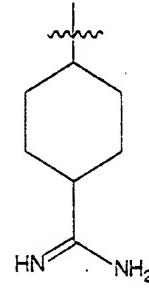
B represents a structural fragment of formula Ib, Ic, Id or Ie



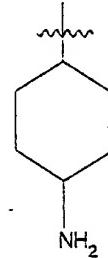
Ib



Ic



Id



Ie

wherein

(Amend)

X¹ and X² independently represent a single bond or CH₂;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

A3

4. (Amended) A compound of formula I, as defined in claim 1, wherein R² represents a structural fragment of formula Ia and R¹ represents R⁴.
5. (Amended) A compound of formula I, as defined in claim 1, wherein Z represents O or N(R⁵), in which latter case R⁵ represents C₁₋₆ alkyl terminated by C(O)N(R¹⁰)R¹¹.
6. (Amended) A compound of formula I, as defined in claim 1, wherein R³ is not present, or represents methyl, chloro or methoxy.

(A3cont.)

7. (Amended) A compound of formula I, as defined in claim 1, wherein

Ar¹ represents substituted phenyl.

8. A compound of formula I, as defined in claim 1 wherein Y represents

O.

9. A compound of formula I, as defined in claim 1 wherein B represents
a structural fragment of formula Ib.

(A4)

23. (Amended) A pharmaceutical formulation including a compound as
defined in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in admixture
with a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier.

24. (Amended) A compound as defined in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically
acceptable salt thereof, for use as a pharmaceutical.

25. (Amended) A compound as defined in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically
acceptable salt thereof, for use in the treatment of a condition where inhibition of
thrombin is required.

26. (Amended) A compound as defined in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically
acceptable salt thereof, for use in the treatment of thrombosis.

Q45
27. (Amended) A compound of formula I as defined in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for use as an anticoagulant.

28. (Amended) The use of a compound I as defined in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof as active ingredient in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a condition where inhibition of thrombin is required.

Q5
30. (Amended) The use of a compound as defined in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as active ingredient in the manufacture of an anticoagulant.

31. (Amended) A method of treatment of a condition where inhibition of thrombin is required which method comprises administration of a therapeutically effective amount of a compound as defined in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to a person suffering from, or susceptible to, such a condition.
